

For Six Month Period Ending 07/31/2009
(insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)

(b) Registration No. 4610

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
1810 9th Street
Washington, DC 20001

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.
None

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2009 AUG 27 PM 1:54

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position | Date connection ended |
|------|----------|-----------------------|
|------|----------|-----------------------|

- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Residence address | Citizenship | Position | Date assumed |
|------|----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
|------|----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Position or connection | Date terminated |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|
|------|------------------------|-----------------|

- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name | Residence address | Citizenship | Position | Date assumed |
|------|----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
|------|----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Exhibit A ³ | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exhibit B ⁴ | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

-
11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

- Organize and educate Oromos who are presently living in different States of the USA, Europe, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.
- Inform and educate the human rights and political situation in Ethiopia to friendly governments, human rights organizations, groups and interested individuals as well as Oromo communities at large.

-
12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

-
13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

| Date | From whom | Purpose | Amount |
|--------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|
| B/F | | | 8,9502.85 |
| 02/01/09 to | Civic Groups & | Support | 38,390.00 |
| 07/31/09 | chapters | | 8,620.00 |
| " " | Individuals | " " | 2,164.32 |
| " " | Miscellaneous | " " | |
| " " | | | |
| Total | | | \$58,127.17 |

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Name of foreign principal | Date received | Description of thing of value | Purpose |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

| Date | To whom | Purpose | Amount |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 02/01/09 to 07/31/09 | Geleta Kitila | Office/residential Rent | 18,000.00 |
| " | " | Utility Companies | 3,534.70 |
| " | " | Telephone companies | 6,778.61 |
| " | " | Travel agents | 12,267.95 |
| " | " | Shops | 5,655.89 |
| " | " | Health care agents | 1,298.34 |
| " | " | Web servers | 3,000.00 |
| " | " | Office equip.& sup. | 1,781.69 |
| " | " | Refugees | 11,954.00 |
| " | " | Miscellaneous | 1,398.96 |

\$65,670.14

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Date disposed | Name of person to whom given | On behalf of what foreign principal | Description of thing of value | Purpose |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------|
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------|

(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

| Date | Amount or thing of value | Name of political organization | Name of candidate |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☐ No ☒

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

N/A

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>OLF website (www.oromoliberationfront.org)</u> | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public officials | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☐ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☐ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

08/26/2009



Fekadu W. Bulo

2009 AUG 27 PM 1:55
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¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials – page 8 of Form CRM-154, formerly Form OBD-64-Supplemental Statement):

YES _____ or NO ☒

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO ☒

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)

F. Wakjira
Signature

08-26-09
Date

Fekadu W. Bulo
Please type or print name of
Signatory on the line above

Head of Finance & Administration
Title

2009 AUG 27 PM 1:54
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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL
STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Oromo Liberation Front, North America Office

| Last Name | First Name and Other Names | Registration Date | Termination Date | Role |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------|
| Bulo | Fekadu W. | 04/08/2002 | | |
| Ebba | Fido T. | 06/08/2005 | | |
| Tuffa | Ashebir A. | 04/15/2009 | | |

2009 AUG 27 PM 1:54
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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

| Name | Function | Date Hired |
|------|----------|------------|
| / | / | / |
| / | / | / |
| / | / | / |
| / | / | / |
| / | / | / |

Signature: F. Wajir

Date: 08.26.09

Title: Head of Finance & Adm.

2009 AUG 27 PM 1:54
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

A brief Report On the visit of Mr. Dawud Ibsa, Chairman of the OLF :

The Chairman of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), Mr. Dawud Ibsa, arrived in US from Europe on June 19th 2009 for a short visit. From June 20th up to July 3rd he met with the OLF National Council members residing in the USA, ordinary members in the Washington, DC area, a number of Oromo Academics he invited to come to Washington, DC for consultation and various organizations representing the various ethnic and national groups from the Horn of Africa.

On July 3rd, 2009, the OLF Chairman and his delegation visited the US State Department and met with Dr. James Knight, Director of the Office of East African Affairs, and Mr. John Wysham, Ethiopian Desk Officer. Mr. Dawud Ibsa briefed the US State Department representatives the political and humanitarian developments in the Horn of African. He also suggested ways the new US Administration could help resolve the political and humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Horn of Africa in general and Ethiopian in particular. In this regard, Mr. Ibsa presented prepared briefing material to Dr. Knight. This briefing material is attached herewith.

Mr. Ibsa will attend the Annual Oromo Festival of North America. This year, the festival will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 20th to August 3rd where several thousand Oromos from all over the world and friends expected to attend. In addition, during the months of August and September, the Chairman will be visiting Oromo communities in the various states of the USA. At the end he is expected to visit the State Department before he leaves to go back to Africa.

July 10, 2009

2009 AUG 27 PM 1:55
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OROMO LIBERATION FRONT (OLF)

NORTH AMERICA OFFICE
1810 9TH ST., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

**ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO (ABO)**

WAAJJIRA AMERIKA KAABAA
1810 9TH ST., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Briefing Memorandum**For The USA Department of State****Key messages**

- ❖ The Oromo people, like any people, deserve dignity, equality, justice and peace. For far too long, they have been treated as second-class and subject people in Ethiopia. They have been politically dominated, economically exploited, and culturally suppressed for over a century. This must end. The present Oromo people's struggle led by the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) is to do away these injustices.
- ❖ The OLF is committed to the ideals of equality, freedom, and representative government. We believe that the current US Administration can facilitate the process of peace, stability, democratic governance, and economic development in Ethiopia. It can play a crucial role in ending the treatment of Oromo as second-class people in Ethiopia, the massive human rights violations there, and degrading human conditions of abject poverty and environmental with degradation.
- ❖ The OLF is inspired by the election of President Obama in general and his inaugural speech in particular, where he said "*...that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness. ... Know that America is a friend of each nation, and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity. ... To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history.*" We strongly believe that the current US Administration, with application of this new US doctrine, can facilitate the process of peace, stability, democratic governance and economic development in Ethiopia.

Section I: The Oromo people

- ❖ The Oromo constitute over 40% of Ethiopia's estimated 80 million people. They are the single largest national group in the Horn of Africa. Because of their historical role and strategic place in the greater Horn of Africa, they have significant cultural and economic relations with all the peoples in Ethiopia and the neighboring states.
- ❖ Although numerically the single largest national group in the country, the Oromo, however, is repressed and marginalized to a minority status in terms of political, cultural, and economic

power. The Oromo were conquered during the 1880s by the Abyssinian kingdom; European powers played a central role in the colonization and incorporation of the Oromo into former Abyssinia and current Ethiopia. For about 120 years, successive Ethiopian regimes, including the current one, have subjected the Oromo to untold perpetual misery, abject poverty, lack of democratic governance and crude and cruel human rights violations. The Oromo have always struggled for their inalienable natural and democratic rights, human dignity and equality. It was out of that struggle that the OLF was born.

Section II: The Oromo Liberation Front

- ❖ *The OLF was established in the middle of 1970s with the goal to end political domination, economic exploitation, and cultural suppression of the Oromo people by Ethiopian regimes. It is committed to the ideals of freedom and equality, the rule of law so that all people can live in harmony, peace and prosperity.
- ❖ The OLF fought against the former Marxist military junta of Ethiopia alongside the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the political party that is ruling Ethiopia today. In fact, the OLF co-drafted the Transitional Charter and established the Transitional Government of Ethiopia together with the TPLF in 1991. However, the TPLF, which represents about six percent of the population of Ethiopia, feared a free and fair electoral competition against the OLF and therefore forced the OLF to withdraw from the May 1992 Ethiopian elections.
- ❖ Since its withdrawal from the Transitional Charter in 1992, the OLF has continued to make several attempts to peacefully settle the differences with the TPLF dominated regime in order to establish peace and democratic governance. It also has continued to seek ways to bring together all opposition parties, and agree on a comprehensive mechanism to establish democratic governance in Ethiopia. To this end, it has led the formation of Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD) with opposition parties including the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), the Sidama Liberation Front (SLF), CUDP and EPPF.

Section III: The current situation in Ethiopia

- ❖ Today neither democracy, freedom, nor the rule of law exists in Ethiopia. As a result, the situation in Ethiopia is one of uncertainty and social and political tension. A tremendous social pressure is building up gradually. Violations of human rights are rampant. The root cause of this unparalleled human suffering and instability in Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa in general is the commitment of the Ethiopian rulers to perpetuate their domination by violence and terror. Even though Tigrayans represent about 6% of the population, they dominate the upper echelon of Ethiopia's civilian and military leadership. For instance about 95% officer corps in the Ethiopian army are Tigrayans. Out of the Ethiopian army's 23 division commanders all but one is Tigrayan. This situation is further aggravated by interventions of foreign powers that maintain the autocratic regime in power through training and arming its army.

- ❖ The TPLF regime has become obstacle to the democratization process in the country. Seventeen years after the OLF was expelled from the Transitional Government and after three widely rigged national elections in 1995, 2000 and 2005, the TPLF still has total monopoly over state power through imposing state terrorism and massive human rights violations. In the 2008 local and regional elections, the TPLF and its affiliates won more than 99 percent of all constituencies, i.e. out of the 3.6 million seats the opposition won just three seats. Therefore the 2010 election appears to be a foregone conclusion in favor of TPLF, thereby narrowing the democratic space further. As a whole, the regime is massively abusing the democratic and human rights of the Oromo and other peoples in Ethiopia. Already in 2006 USAID notes: “If democratic institutions do not take root over the next decade, Ethiopia will increasingly face the danger of fragmentation along ethnic and regional lines. Such fragmentation would have grave consequences for regional stability.” As recent developments indicate, democracy is not taking root in Ethiopia and the risk of more conflict is on the horizon;
- ❖ In desperation to hang-on to power, the TPLF has become ever more tyrannical in its rule. PM Meles Zenawi has presented three draconian laws, in the space of one year, for approval to its rubber stamp parliament. Two of those laws have been approved – the “*Media Law*” and “*Charities and Societies law*.” These laws are meant to impede freedom of the mass media and association. The third law called “*Anti-terrorism bill*” is in the making which could criminalized criticism of the regime. These laws will be used as a legal weapon to harass, intimidate, jail, exile and kill particularly members of the opposing groups and their sympathizers. The TPLF government believes that these laws will give it an absolute power to rule over Ethiopia *ad infinitum*.
- ❖ There are massive human rights violations in Ethiopia today. Several respected human rights organizations, including, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and governments including the USA and EU have documented continued brutal suppression of all political dissent in Ethiopia. Today, several thousand Oromos are suffering in prisons and concentrations camps facing torture, diseases, deaths and untold miseries and others have been forced into refugee camps in the neighboring countries, where they live under constant fear of the long-arm of the Ethiopian state and its security agents. The TPLF has kidnapped and assassinated Oromo nationals from Djibouti, Somaliland, Puntland, Mogadishu, Kenya, the Sudan and South Africa.
- ❖ For our people, hunger and famine have become a way of life; the vast human and natural resources that could have alleviated problems of poverty are rendered useless by the oppressive political order of the ruling party. Environmental deterioration is progressing at an alarming rate, including through a deliberate clearing of pristine forests. Ironically, this predicament has been sustained by the continued support of foreign powers. Western governments have strengthened the undemocratic regime of PM Meles Zenawi, through their economic assistance, military, diplomatic and moral support.

Section IV: The need for peace and stability in Ethiopia

- ❖ Peace in Ethiopia will be critical not just for the peoples in Ethiopia, but also for the wider region of the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia occupies a predominant position in the Horn because of its

demographic significance - about 60% of the area's population lives in this country. Within the boundaries of Ethiopia, the Oromo population, estimated at 35 to 40 million, constitutes the largest national group.

- ❖ Oromia lies at the center of current-day Ethiopia, and the Oromo share physical boundary, religious and cultural heritage with all the major populations in the wider Horn of Africa. Demography, history, culture and geography have placed Oromia and the Oromo people in a unique and central position to play a uniting and democratizing role in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. Ignoring these facts would only prolong the cause of peace and stability in Ethiopia and the Horn. Lasting peace can only be achieved through freedom, equality and dignity for the Oromo people and their rights to self-determination.
- ❖ Ethiopia must be reformed into a viable democracy in which the right of nations to self-determination is upheld and individual rights and political freedom are respected and protected. The way forward is for the government and all opposition groups to sit down for a serious dialogue and forge a comprehensive strategy for peace and stability in the Ethiopia and the wider region of the Horn of Africa.
- ❖ The OLF and the Oromo people will continue to work vigorously in search for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis in Ethiopia. We are willing to contribute and work towards a meaningful effort to reach a negotiated settlement in order to achieve equality, justice and peace in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. It is through a united action that the oppressed peoples of Ethiopia will be able to develop a political system based on their consent, liberty, the rule of law and respect for human rights. To succeed in this effort, we would need the support of the international community.

Section V: The role of the USA

- ❖ The U.S. government, as the sole superpower, has the moral and historical responsibility to support the Oromo and other peoples' in Ethiopia in their quest for dignity, equality and justice. It also has responsibility to avert more disaster from unfolding in Ethiopia and the volatile wider Horn of Africa region. Lasting political solution rather than short term illusive stability should be the goal of the US. Real political stability and economic prosperity can only be achieved through implementing and practicing democracy and justice for all the peoples.
- ❖ The TPLF is getting bogus legitimacy and acceptance from governments that the citizens of Ethiopia have denied it. Without public support or legitimacy, even with the West's continued bankrolling, the TPLF will remain dysfunctional. Despite its domestic excesses and lack of accountability, the U.S. government has continued to support the regime of PM Meles Zenawi, including training his vicious army. On the other hand, there is a widespread fear that US's continued support for the regime would fuel the emergence of ultra-nationalists and religious fundamentalists in this already highly polarized region of Africa. Such developments cannot be in the interest of the U.S. or the peoples of Ethiopia.
- ❖ The US can take the following five concrete actions to support the cause of equality and justice for the Oromo and other peoples in Ethiopia and to support a transition to the rule of law, accountability and democratic governance: To this effect we wish that:

First, the US government uses sits good offices to encourage the emergence of a truly democratic government in Ethiopia that respects the right to self-determination of peoples. It can exert real pressure on the Ethiopian regime to enter into a meaningful dialogue with opposition groups for the purpose of solving the political stalemate. We believe it takes the weight of the U.S. administration to jump-start a meaningful political transformation in Ethiopia and ensure that such a process will be successful.

Second, the US government pressures the Ethiopian regime stop its unlawful extra-judicial executions of innocent people and release political prisoners.

Third, the US government uses its bilateral financial, diplomatic and political leverage over the TPLF regime by suspending financial support for the regime other than for humanitarian purposes. The current Ethiopian rulers understand that their very survival depends on the continued financial and diplomatic support of the United States government. The regime cannot stay in power for a long time without the support and protection of its foreign backers.

Finally, we appeal to the US government to support the Oromo people's legitimate struggle for freedom, justice and peace and assist the same materially and diplomatically. Our people expect a lot from the US government because they always perceived the USA as a leading democratic country that always stands on the side of the oppressed people by reinforcing the rule of law, good governance and addressing human rights issues.

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